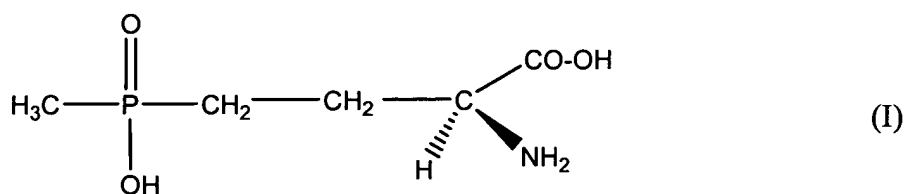


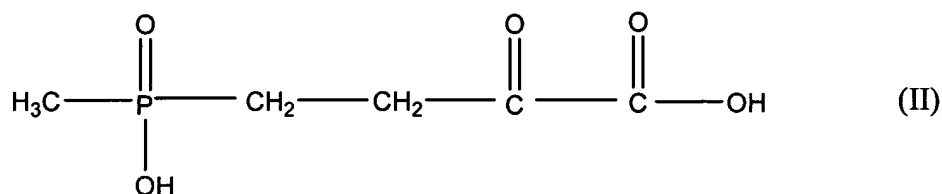
**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Curently Amended) A process for preparing L-2-amino-4-(hydroxymethylphosphinyl) butyric acid (L-phosphinothricin, L-PPT) of the formula (I), its derivatives which are selected from the group of carboxylic esters and carboxamides and phosphinic esters and/or its respective salts



from 4-(hydroxymethylphosphinyl)-2-oxobutyric acid (HMPB, PPO) of the formula (II)



its derivatives which are selected from the group of carboxylic esters and carboxamides and phosphinic esters and/or its respective salts as acceptor by enzymatic transamination in the presence of aspartate as donor, where the transamination takes place in the presence of one or more acceptor-specific aspartate transaminase(s) (Asp-TA) which transaminase(s) catalyze the direct transfer of the  $\alpha$ -amino group from aspartate to 4(hydroxymethylphosphinyl)-2-oxybutyric acid (HMPB, PPO) or its derivatives to give oxaloacetate and the compound of the formula (I), its derivatives and/or salts.

15. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the reaction of aspartate as donor and a compound of the formula II, its derivatives which are selected from the group of carboxylic esters and carboxamides and phosphinic esters and/or its respective salts as acceptor takes place in the presence of one or more thermally stable acceptor-specific aspartate transaminases.

16. (Previously presented) The process as claimed, in claim 14 wherein the acceptor-specific aspartate transaminases have a low substrate specificity for pyruvate so that the formation of the by-product alanine is avoided as far as possible.

17. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 14 wherein one or more of the transaminases are in immobilized form.

18. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein pyruvate which is present is removed from the reaction mixture by physical, chemical and/or enzymatic means.

19. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the conversion of the pyruvate takes place in the presence of one or more acetolactate synthases (ALS) to give acetolactate.

20. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the conversion of the pyruvate takes place in the presence of a pyruvate decarboxylase to give acetaldehyde.

21. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the conversion of the pyruvate takes place in the presence of a pyruvate oxidase to give acetyl phosphate.

22. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the conversion of pyruvate takes place in the presence of a thermally stable enzyme.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)